

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00779 191732Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 HA-05 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 /079 W  
-----083196 191743Z /41

O 191656Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7129  
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 779

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, MASS, SOPH, SF, AO  
SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE MINISTER'S  
STATEMENT

REF: STATE 99971,

1. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM AN ARGUS CORRESPONDENT  
TODAY (APRIL 19), I USED A PORTION OF THE GUIDANCE PROVIDED  
BY REFTEL REGARDING DEFENSE MINISTER BOTHA'S STATEMENT IN  
PARLIAMENT THAT AMERICAN PLANES HAD DELIVERED ARMS TO SOUTH  
AFRICAN CONTROLLED BASES IN ANGOLA DURING THE 1975/76  
CIVIL WAR. THE LATE EDITION OF THE CAPE TOWN ARGUS TODAY  
MADE THE MATTER THE SUBJECT OF ITS LEAD STORY, THE TEXT OF  
WHICH FOLLOWS IN PARA 2 BELOW:

2.; ?3&8, 53/5: US DENIES ARMS AIRLIFT TO ANGOLA.  
THE UNITED STATES DENIES THAT ITS AIRCRAFT TOOK ARMS TO  
ANGOLA DURING THE CIVIL WAR--CONTRADICTING SOUTH AFRICA'S  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CAPE T 00779 191732Z

MINISTER OF DEFENCE, MR. P.W. BOTHA.

IN PARLIAMENT YESTERDAY MR. BOTHA SAID AMERICAN AIRCRAFT CARRIED  
ARMS TO ANGOLAN POSITIONS HELD BY SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES AND  
THAT HE WATCHED THE UNLOADING.

BUT TODAY MR. HARVEY NELSON, UNITED STATES CHARGE D'AFFAIRES

IN THE ABSENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR, ISSUED A TERSE STATEMENT  
DENYING THIS.

"THE UNITED STATES PROVIDED NO ARMS TO SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IN  
ANGOLA OR ANYWHERE ELSE," HE SAID.

"NO UNITED STATES AIRCRAFT DELIVERED ARMS IN ANGOLA."

MR. BOTHA WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT.

IN PARLIAMENT YESTERDAY HE SAID SOUTH AFRICA WAS CONDEMNED FOR  
GOING INTO ANGOLA ON A LIMITED SCALE.

"BUT THERE WAS A TIME WHEN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT UNLOADED WEAPONS  
AT MILITARY POSITIONS AND BASES IN ANGOLA WHICH WERE HELD  
BY SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS.

"I WAS THERE"

"I WAS THERE PERSONALLY AND SAW THE UNLOADING OF THE WEAPONS."

MR. BOTHA'S STATEMENTS AND THE AMERICAN DENIAL SEEM LIKELY TO  
AGGRAVATE ALREADY STRAINED RELATIONS.

IT IS NOTED THAT MR. BOTHA DID NOT CLAIM SPECIFICALLY  
THAT AMERICAN AIRCRAFT DELIVERED WEAPONS TO SOUTH AFRICAN  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 CAPE T 00779 191732Z

TROOPS--THEY COULD HAVE BEEN FOR OTHER ANTI-MPLA FORCES IN THE  
AREA--BUT HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED AMERICAN AIRCRAFT. END TEXT.

3. IF, AS IS LIKELY, WE ARE QUERIED FURTHER ON THIS  
ISSUE, PROPOSE TO RESPOND WE BELIEVE IT WOULD SERVE NO  
USEFUL PURPOSE TO CARRY ON A PUBLIC DEBATE ON THIS  
QUESTION AND, THEREFORE, HAVE NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD.  
NELSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, ALLEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CAPET00779  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780167-1144  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** CAPE TOWN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780441/aaaabirr.tel  
**Line Count:** 102  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 5f928bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 99971  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 jul 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2923239  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS GUIDANCE ON SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE MINISTER'S STATEMENT  
**TAGS:** PINT, MASS, SOPN, MARR, SF, AO, (BOTH, PW)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/5f928bab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014